

THE

HISTORIAN

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

February 2010

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The February luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2010, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speaker will be Dr. Wesley McFarland. Dr. McFarland's topic will be medical care in Hancock County during the 1950's and early 1960's. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. Please call **by noon on Wednesday, February 17**, to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-five people, and to apprise us of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$10.00.

Because of increased expenses associated with the monthly luncheon, the Board of Directors has voted to increase the price of lunch to \$10.00 per person.

A REMINDER ABOUT DUES

Prices are fifteen dollars (\$15) for an individual and twenty-five (\$25) for a household. Please double check your address label for the expiration date, and if you find an error, please let us know by calling 467-4090 or sending an e mail to hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SENT IN YOUR DUES!



Juan Ponce de Leon

Early Spanish Explorers of the Gulf Coast

Edited by
Eddie Coleman

Ponce de Leon, the first Spaniard to land in our region, discovered Florida in 1513, but there were no attempts at colonization.

In 1528 Panfilo de Narvaez landed near Pensacola Bay and proceeded inland with three hundred followers. Narvaez had been given Florida from the peninsula to Rio de las Palmas in northeastern Mexico by the Spanish crown.

Disillusioned by the failure to find riches, Narvaez and his men returned to the Coast, arriving at Bahia de los Caballos.

There they built five crude ships and set out for Mexico.

A member of and chronicler of de Soto's expedition ten years later, Hernandez de Biedma wrote of Narvaez, "We recognized the spot on which he had built his smithy and saw a great quantity of horses' bones scattered about." This point is believed to be the site of the present town of St. Marks on Apalachee Bay. From here Narvaez and the remnants of his troops sailed on September 22, 1528, in his five frail boats and coasted west for thirty days, landing occasionally to take on food and water and meeting fierce opposition from the natives of the Coast.

On October 31 they came to "a broad river pouring into the gulf such a volume of water that we were

312 HIGHWAY 80
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520-3595
HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor
Pat Fuchs, Publisher

Published monthly by the
HANCOCK COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Gray, Executive Director
Jackie Allain, President
Scott Bagley, First Vice President
Betty Krieger, Second Vice President
Barbara Warner, Treasurer
Carol Wasielewski, Secretary
Pat Fuchs, Publicity
Jerry Zimmerman, Historian
Ellis Cuevas, Board Member at Large

MAILING ADDRESS:

P. O. Box 3356

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39521

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

108 Cue Street

Telephone/Fax [228] 467-4090

Email address:

hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net

Website:

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com
Marianne Pluim, Webmaster

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY — FRIDAY

10:00AM — 3:00PM

Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)

MISSION STATEMENT

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

able to drink it; but the current was too strong for their clumsy craft. The boat commanded by Narvaez was never heard of," Biedma wrote. Another boat was wrecked at the same point, and the three others were thrown on the coast of western Louisiana or eastern Texas.

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, the treasurer of Narvaez's expedition, and three others were the sole survivors. After years of wandering, they reached the town of San Miguel in Sinaloa, Mexico, in April 1536. The "broad river" of fresh water is believed to be the Mississippi.

After the disastrous expedition of Narvaez, the vast region called Florida by the Spaniards was neglected for a few years. The Spanish imagination, however, was much inflamed by the wealth found in Mexico and Peru, and the next to try his fortune was Hernando de Soto, the son of an esquire of Xerez de Badajoz, who had been with Francisco Pizarro in the conquest of Peru. De Soto was eager to rival the exploits of Hernando Cortez and Pizarro.

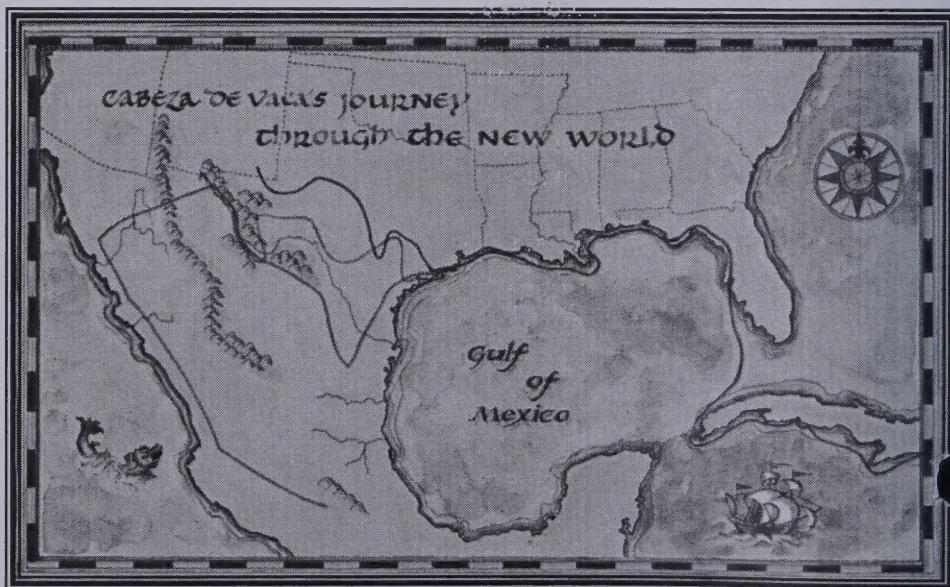
In 1537 de Soto obtained a grant of the province from Florida to the Rio de las Palmas, as ceded

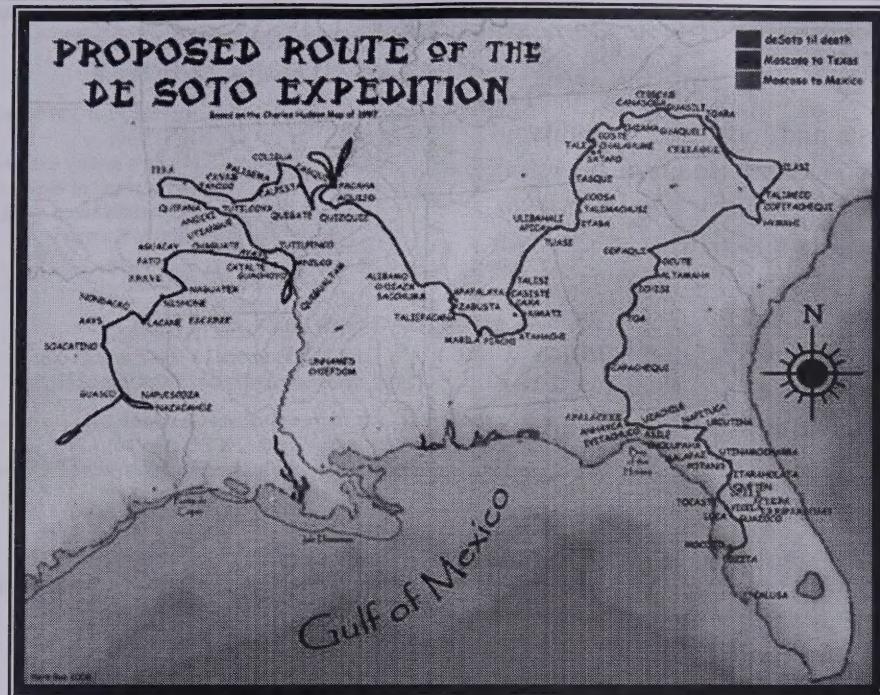
to Narvaez. He was required to conquer and occupy Florida within a year, erect fortresses, and carry over at least five hundred settlers to hold the country. Provision was made for the division of gold, pearls, and other valuables of the conquered chiefs, and provision was also made for the maintenance of the Christian religion and of a hospital in the territory.

De Soto set sail from Spain in 1538 with an ample armament and in 1539 landed at the Bay of Espiritu Santo [Tampa Bay], so called because he reached it on the Feast of Pentecost. He had with him 620 chosen men and declared that the enterprise was undertaken for God alone.

He traversed with his army great portions of Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi—an area known to him as the Rio del Espiritu Santo, a name it retained for more than 130 years.

After a year of futile wandering through the vast regions to the west of the Mississippi, de Soto despaired of finding his El Dorado in that direction and determined to push to the shore of the Gulf. There he built two brigantines in order to





send to Cuba and New Spain for aid. He finally reached the Mississippi River on his return on April 17, 1542, in the vicinity of Arkansas City, a few miles south of the Arkansas River. There he became ill and died on May 21, 1542.

De Soto's successor, Luis de Moscoso, after a long march into Texas, finally returned to the Mississippi and conducted the remnants of the expedition down that river in brigantines to the Gulf and on to Mexico.

The expedition of de Soto was comparatively barren of result and added very little to the knowledge of the continent as no steps were taken to note the topography of the country or the languages of the various tribes.

After de Soto's death no further efforts were made by Spain to explore the great central basin of the continent. It remained an unknown region for more than a century. In the meantime France had planted colonies on the St. Lawrence River, and her adventurous pioneers and priests had penetrated to the great river which de Soto had discovered. In seeking to extend

The first settlement in Louisiana by the French was made on Mississippi soil by Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville on February 13, 1699.

SOURCES:

Cain, Cyril E. *Four Centuries on the Pascagoula*. Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, 1983.

Rowland, Dunbar. *Encyclopedia of Mississippi*. Madison, WI: Selwyn A. Brant, 1907.



Hernando de Soto



Burial of de Soto

NEW AD PRICES

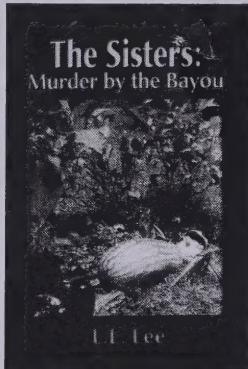
Because of increased mailing costs and increased visibility of the newsletter on the internet, the Hancock County Board of Directors has approved an increase in advertisement prices for *The Historian*. The increase will go into effect with the March 2010 newsletter for any new ads as well as renewals. The new prices are as follows:

1/8 page (business card size)—\$75 per year or \$7.50 per month

1/4 page—\$112.50 per year or \$11.25 per month

1/2 page—\$150 per year or \$15 per month

1 page—\$225 per year or \$22.50 per month



The Sisters: Murder by the Bayou
By L. L. Lee
A humorous mystery novel set in Louisiana and pre-Katrina Bay St. Louis

Available through Bay Books, the internet, or your favorite bookstore



Fashion Express

Jewelry & Giftware

Bay St. Louis
Ornament
exclusively at
Fashion Express



\$20.00

Jean Ann Thriffiley
228-332-5326
jathriffiley@yahoo.com

Serenity Place
126 Main Street
Old Town Bay St. Louis

BOOKS FOR SALE AT LOBRANO HOUSE

Bay Saint Louis: Celebrating the First 300 Years

By the HCHS (\$15.00)

A nostalgic keepsake of the city's history including descriptions and pictures of many of the historic buildings and houses especially those along Beach Boulevard prior to Katrina

Blueberry Peaches, Red Robin Pie

By Stella LaViolette

and Paul Estranza La Violette (\$25.00)
An annotated cookbook of Gulf Coast recipes

Heritage Cookbook

By the HCHS (\$15.00)

A collection of our members' favorite family recipes

Holly

By Paul La Violette (\$20.00)

An intriguing anthology of tales of a tomcat living in a beach house on the Gulf Coast

Katrina Cookbook

By Charlet Russell (\$19.95)

A collection of recipes by Bayou Tours

One Dog, Two Dogs, Three Dogs, Four...

By Paul La Violette (\$20.00)

Twice told tales of several dogs living in a beach house on the Gulf Coast

Scrapbook of Treasured Memories

By Connie Heitzmann and Betty Stechmann (\$20.00)

A book of art, photography, and reminiscence of the Gulf Coast

Sink or Be Sunk

By Paul La Violette (\$30.00)

A recounting of the naval battle in the Mississippi Sound preceding the Battle of New Orleans in 1812

Vintage Photographs of Hancock County

By
Lori Gordon
(\$15.00)

These photographs come from the vast photographic collection of the Historical Society. They have been restored and matted by local artist Lori Gordon.

West Side Stories

Before, During, and After on Mississippi's West Coast

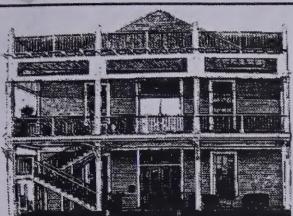
Photographs and Commentary by Vicki Niolet and Betty Stechmann (\$28.00)
A Pictorial of our homes and communities in Pass Christian, Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Lakeshore, and Clermont Harbor

A White Egret in the Shallows

By Paul La Violette (\$20.00)

"His stories reveal the ambiance and wonder of coastal living, while at the same time showing the sometimes slow, sometimes catastrophic physical and social changes taking place in the coastal regions."

PLEASE ADD \$3.00 SHIPPING FOR THE FIRST BOOK (\$1.50 EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK) ON MAIL ORDERS.



"CENTURY HALL"
Antiques, Art, and Specialties

112 SOUTH SECOND STREET OLD TOWN BAY ST. LOUIS

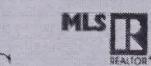
FORD REALTY, INC.

Established 1949

Residential · Timber Land · Commercial · Developers

P.O. Box 418 · 1004 Memorial Blvd. · Picayune, MS 39466
Office (601) 798-6202 · Fax (601) 799-0202
Out of State 1-(800)-354-FORD (3673) · www.fordrlty.com

Glen "Cubby" Ford
Owner, Broker



Home Phone
(601) 798-3601

BAY BOOKS

131 MAIN ST.
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MS.

AUTHOR EVENTS

Sat., Feb. 13, 10:00 A. M.: *Tough Talk for Tough Times: Real Conversations with Real People about Money*

By Nancy Lotteridge Anderson

Dr. Anderson is co-host of MPR's "Money Talks." The talk is free, but space is limited.

Call the store to reserve your spot.

Sat., Feb. 27, 2:00 P. M.: *Knights of the Razor: Black Barbers in Slavery and Freedom*
By Dr. Doug Bristol, USM professor

Sat., Mar. 6: Dr. Seuss' birthday!

228-463-2688

Tues. through Sun. 10:00 A. M. – 5:30 P. M.
Visit us online at www.bay-books.com.
E mail at baybooks@bellsouth.net

100%

Steve B. Treutel

Financial Advisor

375 Courthouse Road

Gulfport, MS 39507

228-896-6461 • 800-847-6002



ADVISORS

Together we'll go far

Investment and Insurance Products: ▶ NOT FDIC Insured ▶ NO Bank Guarantee ▶ MAY Lose Value

Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, Member SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.
©2009 Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. All rights reserved. 0409-1260 [74124-v1]

Ford Realty, Inc.

Established 1949
Residential - Timber Land
Ranches - Commercial



*Martha Ford,
Realtor
GRI, CMCA,
Licensed Appraiser*



1004 Memorial Blvd.
P.O. Box 418
Picayune, MS 39466
Ofc 601.798.6202
Fax 601.799.0202
800-354.FORD(3673)
Cell 601.590.2988
www.fordrlty.com

*Home Phone
601.798.0082*

Camille Tate Realty
C.I. Tate, Broker

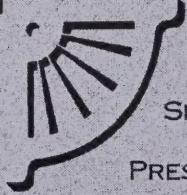


Camille I. Tate, G.R.I.

Phone 228/463-9026
Fax 228/463-9679
Cell 228/216-5339

LOCAL COLOR

DAN BADER



SPECIALIZING IN
PAINTING &
PRESSURE CLEANING

528 STATE STREET
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520
228-466-5165



AMERICAN LEGION POST #139

GREENMEADOW RD. BAY SAINT LOUIS, MS.



**HALL RENTAL—\$800.00 for commercial businesses,
\$550.00 for members, \$350.00 for non-profits**
**CLUBHOUSE RENTAL—\$200 FOR POST 139 MEMBERS
\$300 FOR NON LEGION MEMBERS**
For more information, call 228-467-7100



RAYMOND JAMES®

Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., Member NASD/SIPC

John "Corky" Hadden Registered Principal

837 A Hwy. 90 228.466.9888
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 888.465.9968
www.rjf.com Fax: 228.466.9978
email: corky.hadden@raymondjames.com

CLAY CREATIONS
Jenise McCardell
Mark Currier
228-466-6347



220 Main St.
Bay St. Louis , MS. 39520
Claycreationsllc@yahoo.com



Charley E. "Dusty" Rhodes
President

700000

Phone: (228) 270-0030
Fax: (228) 270-0034
Email: drhodes@thefirstbank.com

2118 Hwy 90
P.O. Box 2907
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
www.TheFirstBank.com

A White Egret in the Shallows

A book about the way we were



By
Paul Estronza LaViolette
Available through the Hancock
County Historical Society



701 Dunbar Avenue
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
228-467-4364
Art, Antiques, Business Incubator,
Cafe, Plant Nursery, etc.

Owners:
Judith Blaize
Joan Coleman

MosquitoHwkMarkt@BellSouth.net

George Cossitt

Jamie Temple



Bakery • Breakfast • Lunch • Ice Cream

112 North Second Street | Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 | 228-466-4930

SUE ASHMAN
ABR, CRS, GRI, SRS
BROKER

418 Highway 90
Waveland, MS 39576



Office: (228) 467-5454
Fax: (228) 466-4561

www.Ashman-Mollere.com

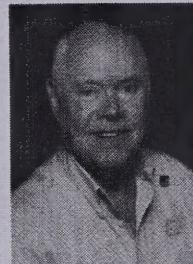
Cell: (228) 216-7864
Email: sueashman@aol.com

TODD N. THRIFFILEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW

PHONE: (228) 467-2400
TOLL FREE: 1-866-670-8681

LATTER & BLUM
INC/REALTORS®

Since 1916



JOHN E. HARRIS, GRI
Realtor-Associate



Cell (228) 493-4111
Toll Free (800) 215-4111
Fax (228) 467-2507
E-mail jeharris@latterblum.com

1188 Hwy. 90, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

151 Highway 90
Waveland, MS 39576-2618
228-467-2338

Mike Mayo
Tom Cottom
Cell: 228-493-7264

Hours: Wed.—Sat. 10:00 A. M.—5:00 P. M.
Sun.—By chance or by appointment

www.csantiques.com

Charles B. Benvenutti
Certified Public Accountant

Charles B. Benvenutti, CPA, PA

831 Highway 90
P.O. Box 2639
Bay St. Louis, MS
39521-2639

228-467-1402

Fax 228-467-2594

Email: Chuck@BenvenuttiCPA.com

HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 3356
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39521

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U. S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 87
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

Handcock County Library - ref.dept. (COMP)
312 Hwy. 90
Bay St. Louis Ms. 39520

HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 3356
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39521

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE AND ZIP _____

PHONE (_____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ANNUAL DUES \$15 INDIVIDUAL/\$25 HOUSEHOLD \$ _____